

FOCUS ON THE FIRST

MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD—1ST COUNCIL DISTRICT
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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WITH HISTORIC VIEW, LASC LOOKS TO FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADING TO FACILITY EXPANSION

On June 17th, the Living Arts & Science Center broke ground on a \$5 million renovation and expansion of its historic facility. The expanded facility is to be named the *Lucille Caudill Little Discovery Center*. I offered congratulatory & honorary comments, at the ceremony. Mayor Jim Gray, Vice Mayor Linda Gorton, Council Member At-Large Steve Kay, and state Senator Reginald Thomas also attended the celebration.

Currently, the LASC occupies the historic Kinkead House. Built in 1847, the property is located at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and East Fourth Street. The Kinkead family donated the home to the Living Arts & Science Center in 1981.

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Chris Ford
Councilman, 1st District

JULY CALENDAR:

9—Council Summer Recess
Begins through August 11

14—Isaac Murphy Memorial Art
Garden Groundbreaking (*Project
Site*) 1:00 PM

22—Human Rights Commission
East End Town Hall (*tbd*)

7/31-8/1—Minority Business
Expo (*Lexington Convention Center*)

See PAGE 4 for additional
calendar announcements...

COUNCIL ADOPTS FY 2014-2015 BUDGET

Urban County Council recently adopted and ratified the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The combined budgeted expenses for all funds is \$606.6 million. No new taxes or fees are included in the spending plan, which calls for \$313.3 million in General Fund programs and services. Overall, the Council ruled favorably on the bulk of the FY 2015 budget proposed by Mayor Jim Gray in April. The highlights of major changes enacted by Council include:

- ◆ Increased street paving for neighborhood streets by \$2 million (for total of \$5 million)
- ◆ Increased funding for Social Services Partner Agencies by \$690,460 (for total of \$3.27 million)
- ◆ Added \$185,000 for concrete repair and resurfacing of East Short Street in downtown
- ◆ Adopted \$8 million to construct the new Seniors Citizen Center at Idle Hour Park
- ◆ Adopted \$2.5 million for design and construction of Fire Station #2 on Eastland Drive

The new fiscal year began July 1, and will end on June 30, 2015. To view additional budgetary information, please visit the city's website at www.lexingtonky.gov.

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THE WAIT IS FINALLY OVER **IMMAG READY TO BREAK GROUND**



It's official! Construction of the long-awaited Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden (IMMAG) is scheduled to begin in late July. The Urban County Council recently approved the bid of nearly \$700,000 for construction of the park, to be located at the intersection of East Third, Midland Avenue and Winchester Road. A groundbreaking ceremony is set for Monday, July 14th at 1:00 PM at the project site.

Many thanks go to the members of the IMMAG Board of Directors and the Bluegrass Community Foundation, who have tirelessly worked and advocated for this project. The Art Garden is scheduled to be completed in November 2014.

UTILITY UPGRADES UNDERWAY IN N. BROADWAY AREA

Recently, I met with officials of Columbia Gas of Kentucky to learn details about their plans to upgrade a portion of the natural gas pipeline system in the 1st Council District.

Currently, crews from Columbia's contractor, Team Fishel, are working on *Delcamp Drive*, and will eventually progress south to North Broadway. In addition, *Bellaire Avenue*, *Davidson Court*, *Granard Avenue*, *Headley Avenue*, *Morrison Avenue*, *Price Avenue*, *Smith Street* and *West Sixth Street* are all included in the proposed project area.

During the project, crews will replace service lines, relocate inside gas meters to the outside of the structure (where applicable) and connect new service lines to the main line in the street. Gas service may briefly be interrupted while these activities are completed.

Construction activities will primarily take place from 7:00 AM until approximately 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The entire project is scheduled for completion in mid November. Please note that on-street parking may be unavailable at times during this project, however, signs will be posted to alert property owners if and when parking is restricted.

If you live in the aforementioned area, and have specific questions or concerns regarding the pipeline replacement project, please call Columbia Gas Construction Specialist, Doug Kinder at (859) 983-9666. Lastly, Columbia recommends if you should ever smell the odor of gas, please call their 24-hour emergency line at (800) 432-9515.



KEENELAND TO HOST 2015 BREEDERS' CUP

Last month, the Breeders' Cup announced that Lexington's own Keeneland Race Course, will host the 2015 Breeders' Cup World Championship. This will be the first time Keeneland will host the prestigious international event.

Unlike the Triple Crown races that occur every May and June, the Breeders' Cup serves as Thoroughbred racing's year-end Championships, consisting of 13 races and purses totaling \$26 million. The event will be held October 31—November 1, 2015.

This is a huge accomplishment for Keeneland, which worked vigorously to convert its track from synthetic Polytrack material to state-of-the-art dirt, in order to be eligible to host the event. Even more, it's a honor for Lexington, the 'Horse Capital of the World,' to welcome the racing world to our city.



LIVING ARTS & SCIENCE CENTER *(continued from Page 1)*

Sprawling over a compact & freely accessible 1.5 acre campus, the Kinkead House and LASC are important fabrics of the East End community. This expansion amply illustrates this historic & contemporary significance.

Now celebrating its' 45th year, LASC is a not-for-profit organization that serves over 40,000 children and adults through creative unique opportunities for exploration and education in the arts and sciences. For more information on LASC programs and learning opportunities, please visit www.lasclex.org.

RUPP ARENA PLAN STALLS, 21C HOTEL MOVES FORWARD

Two (2) major projects in downtown Lexington are currently on opposite courses to completion. On June 18th, Mayor Jim Gray announced the \$310 million plan to renovate Rupp Arena and the Convention Center has been suspended. One factor cited for project's halt was the inability to secure lease renewal agreement with the University of Kentucky for Men's basketball games. LFUCG, in partnership with the Lexington Convention Center, has incurred approximately \$5 million in planning & design costs, to date. Urban County Council is scheduled to discuss the status of the Rupp Arena project hiatus at a Budget & Finance Committee meeting scheduled for August 26th at 1:00 PM.

Just a few blocks away at the corner of West Main and North Upper, the 21c Hotel Museum began construction in late May. In support of this project,

the Urban County Council gave approval for a \$6 million loan to 21c. Secured by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the Section 108 loan will assist the development team with renovation and construction costs. Over 100 jobs are proposed to be created, likely for low-income workers. I cast one of the three (3) dissenting votes on the HUD loan to 21c, based on my position that the HUD loan is not the appropriate financing source for this upscale project. However, I do recognize the significant impact this renovation project may have for the historic preservation of the former First National Bank building. As I have publicly stated, I wish Mr. Craig Greenburg, 21c President, and his development team much success moving forward. Welcome to downtown Lexington.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAR OFFICERS



Officer Daniel Burnett

In 2006, the Division of Police began tackling crime and addressing rising neighborhood safety concerns by implementing the **Community Law Enforcement Action Response (CLEAR) Program**. The program puts officers in specific neighborhoods by providing both a permanent day and night time patrol presence.

CLEAR Unit Response Officers are present in several 1st District neighborhoods including: the Georgetown Street area, the East End, Green Acres, Hollow Creek and Winburn neighborhoods. Additionally, the District is fortunate to have **CLEAR Neighborhood Coordinators**. These designated officers focus their efforts on citizen complaints and quality of life issues by working closely with other city divisions, community residents and community businesses.

Officer Daniel Burnett has served in the Green Acres/Hollow Creek and Winburn neighborhoods since March 2014 and *Officer Kevin Watts* has worked in the Georgetown Street Area since May 2011.



Officer Kevin Watts



Wil James
President, Toyota Motor
Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc.

THE 2014 MINORITY BUSINESS EXPO TO FEATURE TOYOTA'S WIL JAMES

The Lexington Bluegrass Area Minority Business Expo is a rare event in Kentucky, dedicated solely to the education and growth of minority and women owned businesses. The event includes a day and half of local and national vendors, breakout educational sessions, one on one sessions with local companies and a luncheon featuring an renowned keynote speaker.

This year's keynote speaker is Lexington resident and President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. (TMMK), Wil James, Jr. In 2010, Mr. James became the seventh president of TMMK and first African-American to hold this post. James' career with Toyota began in 1987 as a supervisor of a small team, eventually moving his way up the ladder within Toyota's network in Indiana and California, before making his way to Kentucky. James was recently named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America.

It will be exciting to hear Mr. James speak at this year's luncheon. For more information, including registration, visit www.lexingtonmbe.com.



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1ST DISTRICT BACK TO SCHOOL RALLIES

On Saturday, August 2nd, the YMCA of Central Kentucky will once again host its annual Back to School Rallies. There will be seven rallies held throughout the 1st Council District. Registration for free school supplies will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 and supplies will be distributed at noon. The locations for rallies held within the district are listed below:

- ◆ Shiloh Baptist Church
- ◆ Douglass Park
- ◆ Green Acres Park
- ◆ Marlboro Park
- ◆ Russell Cave Church of Christ
- ◆ Coolavin Park
- ◆ Total Grace Baptist Church



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS MEETING AUGUST 5TH—COOLAVIN PARK SHELTER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014

6:00—7:30 PM

550 WEST SIXTH STREET

The Coolavin Park entrance and shelter are near the corner of West Sixth Street and West Jefferson Street. We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATIONS AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Super Sunday

Douglass Park

Sunday, July 20—2:00-9:00 PM

Radcliffe-Marlboro Neighborhood Picnic

Marlboro Park

Saturday, July 26—6:00-9:00 PM

Smithtown Day Neighborhood Reunion

Coolavin Park

Saturday, August 2—12:00-10:00 PM

Brucetown Day Neighborhood Reunion

Brucetown Park

Saturday, August 9

East End Family Reunion

Charles Young Park

Saturday, August 16—12:00-8:00 PM



WE CARE MOVEMENT EXPANDING INTO EAST END

Last year, the Lexington Division of Police created a Task Force to combat ongoing public safety issues in the West End community, off the Georgetown Street corridor. The purpose was build stronger relationships between the residents and the Police Department. The successful movement, entitled, ***WE CARE—Our Community, Our Future*** brought together community residents, organizations, businesses and churches.

The task force is now expanding its efforts to the East End. They will kick off their initiative with a series of Peace Walks. Each walk will leave from Duncan Park at 6:00 pm.

- ◆ Saturday, July 12
- ◆ Saturday, July 19
- ◆ Saturday, July 26
- ◆ Saturday, August 2

For more information, contact Sergeant Rahsaan Berry at (859) 576-6217 or rberry@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov.